

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USUN N 01945 122355Z
ACTION SS-25

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P 122354Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1348
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 01945
EXDIS
CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF WESTERN FIVE AMBASSADORS ON
SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM

REF: STATE 119916

1. DEPARTMENT'S ALLEN LOCKE BRIEFED WESTERN FIVE
AMBASSADORS AND MISSION OFFICERS AM MAY 11 ON THE
CURRENT STATE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROBLEM.
LOCKE EXPLAINED THE US APPROACH, THE REASONING BEHIND IT,
AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR INITIATIVE ALONG LINES
OF PARA TWO REFTEL. HE DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS US
INFORMATION ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY AT THE KALAHARI TEST SITE. HE ALSO ANSWERED
NUMEROUS QUESTIONS. THE FIVE DISCUSSED LINES OF ARGUMENT-

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TATION WHICH MIGHT BE USED WITH THE AFRICANS AND AGREED
THAT WE MUST DEVELOP A COGENT RESPONSE IF WE ARE TO
BE EFFECTIVE IN OUR EFFORTS TO FORESTALL AFRICAN INITIATIVES IN THE UN. LOCKE PROVIDED THE GROUP WITH A BRIEF
SUMMARY OF THE POINTS WHICH MIGHT BE MADE IN FUTURE
DISCUSSIONS WITH AFRICANS AND OTHERS. ALL AGREED THAT IN
THE FINAL ANALYSIS OUR PROBLEM WOULD REVOLVE AROUND THE

POLITICAL AND EMOTIONAL FACTORS RELATING TO NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA, NOT THE TECHNICAL DETAILS.

2. COMMENT: LOCKE'S BRIEFING WAS MOST HELPFUL AND GREATLY APPRECIATED BY USUN AND THE OTHERS OF THE FIVE. THERE IS THE CONTINUING LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL MAY AT SOME EARLY POINT BE CALLED TO MEET ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR QUESTION. SO FAR THE ISSUE SEEMS TEMPORARILY DORMANT HERE -- AN IMPRESSION CONFIRMED BY THE OTHER FOUR -- BUT THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT WILL NO DOUBT PROVIDE A FORUM FOR ALLEGATIONS AND CORRIDOR TALK. IN THIS LIGHT, OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE FIVE ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO BE WELL-INFORMED AND PREPARED.

3. WE MENTIONED OUR THOUGHT THAT A SIMILAR BRIEFING MIGHT BE STAGED FOR THE NIGERIANS AND OTHER KEY AFRICANS IN NEW YORK AT AN APPROPRIATE JUNCTURE, BUT SUGGESTED WE DO NOT DO SO NOW FOR FEAR OF STIRRING THE VERY KIND OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST WE WISH TO AVOID. END COMMENT.
YOUNG

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NNN

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